2: Sanders E-5 (no date) 1949 EEl Bulgaria EEl

unless stooped by age. Hands seldom gloved in winter are rough and dirty and calloused. I often thought that one of the strangest things about death was the way it quieted the hands of these simple folk, who, although reserved in demeanor, constantly gestured when they spoke.

I grew accustomed to the mannerisms of the people as well as to the flavor of village life by slow degrees. At first I was attracted most by the gala occasions, or the spectacular. There was the annual Christmas *horo* (folk dance) which provided the first break in the monotony of winter. On a comfortably mild Christmas Day old women and little children, the first to arrive in the main village square, sat in twos and threes waiting for the dancing to begin. Girls in their Sunday best, with necklaces of gold coins flashing in the sunlight, passed through the square and sang as they walked. They were bareheaded, since they could not yet wear the married women's head kerchief. As they drew closer, the blotches of rouge, the tremendous earrings, belts laden with clinking silver pieces, and heavy bracelets showed that the girls considered this no ordinary holiday. They formed a line, side by side, and began the dance after persuading the gypsy musicians to strike up a tune; one by one the boys who had come out of the taverns joined the moving line: one step to the right, one step to the left, then three steps to the right, kicking high as they stepped. As the dancing progressed, many married women participated, while the married men looked on with condescending interest. The little children, dressed like miniature adults, gathered on the fringes of the crowd to imitate the dancers. Gossiping groups formed, buzzed, and then dissolved to form anew.

A commotion arose in the center of the square as two young men fought over the cane which was carried by the leader of the *horo*. The leader was supposed to pay the musicians for the dances he led, in exchange for which he could direct the dancers in a serpentine movement, always in step with the music, so that they wound in and out with a "crack-the-whip" at every major bend of the line. To the peasant, the boisterous physical activity gives an exhilaration little else can induce. In fact, some of the "young blades" at this *horo* were so carried away with animal spirits that they performed six or seven steps

342 and the stables; in the mountains there are usually structures with many
stories. Formerly the windows used to have wooden sashes that ran
along a groove and that one could slide to the side, in place of window
262 panes. The style of life is simple; in the country the herders were often
contented with sour milk, and the farmers with maize and millet beer.
231 The raising of livestock specializes in cattle, sheep, and goats, and
[221] takes place in the form of a migratory herding system, which commutes
back and forth between the mountains in the summer and the plains
241 in the winter. The agriculture produces wheat, maize, barley, and
rye, and in the temperate, nay, even hot, South, it cultivates rice,
cotton, and sesame; from here, too, come the olive trees, the citrous
412 trees, and the chestnut trees. The hand mill is mostly used only for
salt, other kinds of primitive tools have scarcely been preserved. The
threshing sled (Figure 9)* came from the Orient; it is made of hard
planks that have been bent upward at the front and into which sharp-
edged fire-stones have been forced. When it is in use it is weighted
down enough by the stones and by the weight of the leader to be able
to press out the ears of grain. The rattle board (Figure 15)* has its
counterparts all over ancient Europe. The sawing frame of the wandering
wood cutters is an original invention. It includes a box filled with
stones which is fastened by two rods and revolves around a horizontal
axis, so that by its weight it supports the backward movement of the
291 saw. Through the universal joy in colors and in ornaments the national
dress displays a great deal of variety. The basic elements of the men's
clothing are a long, rough shirt with a wide cut which is embroidered
with colored wool along the chest opening and along the shoulder;
cloth or leather trousers, pleated in the Turkish manner in the east,
in the west evenly tight-fitting, with a long woollen waistband; and
legging-like calf cloths, as well as sandals; a sleeveless jacket or
coat-like upper garment with wool trimmings and laces; a sheep's fur
or hooded mantle; a dark and low lambskin cap. The women wear
blouses with embroidered and crocheted ornamentation, skirts with
belts, firmly woven, embroidered apron skirts, sleeveless vests or
sleeve jackets, kerchiefs, headdresses and garlands around their fore-
302 heads with fringe bands covered with coins and hanging far down. The
301 girls wear their hair in from 20 to 30 tresses which are held together
just below shoulder level by means of chains or buckles with silver
coins and pearls, and which, at the end, are gathered together into
one single tress (Figure 1). They also have costly ornaments of little
gold and silver plates, as well as of filigree work for which the threads

*were formerly often taken from ancient coins.
[see 1; Karutz, E1 Europe, Cat. 116, p. 59a --- Analyst]